

corporate rate in the industrialized world—the TCJA Conference Report would help our economy grasp the growth that's well within its reach. Provisions similar to those included in this Conference Report have been projected to boost GDP, create new jobs, lift after-tax income for middle-class families, and encourage greater investment in our country. The RATE Coalition strongly urges Senators and Representatives to deliver those wins for American workers by sending this legislation to President Trump's desk for signature as swiftly as possible."

NATIONAL MILK
PRODUCERS FEDERATION.

NMPF STATEMENT ON TAX REFORM LEGISLATION FROM JIM MULHERN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NMPF

ARLINGTON, VA—"National Milk has worked closely with House and Senate members on the tax reform conference package to achieve a positive outcome for dairy farmers and their cooperatives, and we're pleased that conferees have completed work on a package that should provide important relief. The final compromise to address the loss of the Section 199 deduction will help protect farmer-owned businesses from a major tax increase at a time when America's farm sector is struggling with low commodity prices and reduced incomes.

"America's dairy farmers, who overwhelmingly rely on cooperatives to market their milk, appreciate the determined efforts by Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND) and John Thune (R-SD), as well as multiple House members, including Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX), to seek a fair and reasonable solution to this challenge. Their efforts will help prevent a higher tax bill for cooperatives and avert the loss of economic activity in rural communities that these businesses help generate. We're also grateful for the numerous senators on both sides of the aisle who elevated this issue during the debate.

"At issue is the loss of the benefit that both farmers and cooperative businesses enjoy from the Section 199 deduction, also known as the Domestic Production Activities Deduction (DPAD). This important provision of the tax code applies to proceeds from agricultural products marketed through cooperatives, making the Section 199 an important means of reducing taxation for farmers and cooperatives alike. Cooperatives pass the vast majority of the benefit—nearly \$2 billion nationwide—directly to their farmer owners, then reinvest the remainder in infrastructure improvements for the marketing and processing of food products.

"The final tax package released on Friday repeals the DPAD, but the legislation allows cooperative members to claim a new 20-percent deduction on payments from a farmer cooperative. Cooperatives would also be able to claim the 20-percent deduction on gross income less payments to patrons, limited to the greater of 50 percent of wages or 25 percent of wages plus 2.5 percent of the cooperative's investment in property. This favorable treatment for gross income will help minimize any potential increase in the tax burden on farmer-owned cooperatives.

"NMPF believes that this provision, plus components of the bill that increase exemption levels from the federal estate tax, enhance depreciation and expensing opportunities for producers, and preserve farmers' ability to deduct interest expenses, should help farmers and cooperatives alike. The fix offered by Sens. Hoeven and Thune recognizes that farmer cooperatives play an indispensable role in our nation's economy and need to be treated fairly in the final tax legislation."

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
MICHAEL IRA WIESNER

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and tribute to Michael Ira Wiesner, who passed away April 19, 2015. This past May 30 Michael's family, loved ones, and community celebrated what would have been Michael's 70th birthday.

Michael was a wonderful husband to his wife Beth, and a great role model and confidant to his children: Amy, Adam, Ben, Ana, and Ashley. Michael had great love for his family and always supported everyone in their journeys to grow and learn. Throughout his life, Michael enjoyed playing golf and spending time in Vermont and always shared his interests with his wife and children.

I am proud to honor the life and legacy of Michael Ira Wiesner for his remarkable character, love of country, and care for his family—which includes his wife Beth Wiesner, Oliver Schwab, my Chief of Staff, his wife Ana Schwab, Ashley Ellis, Amy Wiesner, Adam Wiesner, and Ben Wiesner.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD KIRKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gerald Kirke of Des Moines, Iowa, for his induction into the 2017 Iowa Business Hall of Fame.

The Greater Des Moines Committee founded the Iowa Business Hall of Fame in 1975 to honor Iowans who have helped to enhance the state's business climate. Gerald is the Chairman and CEO of Kirke Financial Services, L.L.C., an investment, real estate and consulting firm he founded in 1999. His other business ventures over his long career include owning a company that manufactured patient fixation and tumor targeting software, a carbon fiber composite manufacturing plan, and an entertainment company that operates three casinos in Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Gerald on his induction into the 2017 Iowa Business Hall of Fame and commend him for his dedication to our great state. It is with great pride that I recognize him today and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this outstanding achievement and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF FALCON
STEEL AMERICA

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Falcon Steel America and its employees for their efforts to aid in the recov-

ery and relief of Montgomery County in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

In 1963, Falcon Steel America was founded as a small steel shop in Haltom City, TX. Since its creation, Falcon Steel has grown to be considered one of the most dependable suppliers of structural steel in Texas. Additionally, Falcon Steel serves as the only producer of high-voltage, steel-lattice towers in the United States.

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, carrying its wind, rains, and flooding across the state and devastating homes and families throughout the greater Houston community.

As the flood waters receded, donations of food, water, clothing, toys, and necessities came pouring into the community from across the United States. To coordinate the distribution of these supplies, Falcon Steel America partnered with Interfaith of The Woodlands and hundreds of local volunteers to organize a massive distribution center in its Conroe factory. With over 225,000 square feet of life-saving supplies, Falcon Steel's willingness to donate its facilities allowed thousands of affected residents to receive much needed assistance. This effort has now become known as one of the largest distribution efforts Montgomery County has ever witnessed.

Falcon Steel's core values of ethical behavior, excellence, and teamwork were reflected in their actions after Hurricane Harvey. Through its willingness to come to the aid of our community, Falcon Steel provided an outlet for thousands of local residents to receive life-saving assistance.

On December 21, 2017, Falcon Steel will complete the renovation of its new manufacturing facility in Conroe, TX. I am proud to join the entire Eighth Congressional District of Texas to congratulate Falcon Steel on this achievement and thank them for their continued commitment to serving our community.

TRIBUTE TO ROLLING HILLS BANK
AND TRUST

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rolling Hills Bank and Trust of Anita, Iowa, for celebrating over 140 years in business. Founded in July of 1876, Rolling Hills Bank has remained dedicated to family traditions and committed to making its community better. Their motto is: "A Homeowned Hometown Bank Investing in People."

Originally named the Anita State Bank, its name was changed in 1989 to Rolling Hills Bank and Trust. They have seen a lot during their time in operation, helping customers through the Great Depression and the Farm Crisis of the 1980s. The bank has expanded with branches in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wyoming. Bank officials are committed especially to helping students and families in agriculture through their Heifer program. Each year, they purchase ten heifers then select students to raise them so they can experience the responsibility of raising the heifers, maintaining records, and the cost associated with it. After five years, the students pay back the bank in